DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIS/MR
REVIEWED BY FSchmelzer DATE 7/2/85
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
19 AUTH. REASON(S)
EXCISE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R (268)

THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER OF KFIR AIRCRAFT

-- ISRAEL HAS LONG DESIRED TO IMPROVE ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES THROUGH SALES OF MILITARY ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. ISRAEL'S DEFENSE INDUSTRIES ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AND EMPLOY SKILLED, HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE SOMETIMES MADE PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMERS RELUCTANT TO DEAL WITH ISRAEL.

-- IN ADDITION, SINCE ISRAEL OFTEN USES U.S. COMPONENTS OR TECHNOLOGY IN ITS INDIGENOUSLY PRODUCED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, U.S. APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF THOSE COMPONENTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES IS REQUIRED BEFORE THE TRANSFER CAN TAKE PLACE. THE ISRAELI-PRODUCED KFIR FIGHTER, FOR EXAMPLE, USES A U.S. J-79 ENGINE.

-- WE HAVE AGREED TO ISRAELI REQUESTS TO MAKE SALES PRESENTATIONS ON THE KFIR TO COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, AND TAIWAN. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO FIRM SALES OF THE KFIR.

-- WE HAVE TOLD ISRAEL THAT IN GENERAL WE ARE PREPARED TO LET ISRAEL MAKE A SALES PRESENTATION ON EQUIPMENT CONTAINING U.S. COMPONENTS TO ANY COUNTRY TO WHICH WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL A SIMILAR ITEM. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WILLING TO FACILITATE ACTUAL TRANSFERS ONCE A SALE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN THE TRANSFERS OF ISRAELI A-4 AIRCRAFT TO COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THEM. WE HAVE NOT ASSISTED ISRAEL IN ACTUALLY MAKING A SALE, HOWEVER,